



BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year, 1947



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TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON,
JUNE, 1948.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1947.

Regarding the Vital Statistics, out of a total of 326 deaths, 189 were over 70 years of age; of these 88 deaths occurred among people between 70 and 80 years, 88 between 80 and 90 years and 13 were over 90 years of age.

The death rate shows an increase of 2.45 per thousand of the population as compared with the rate for 1946. The rate for the whole country has also increased by 0.5 per thousand of the population.

Infantile mortality rates show a higher percentage in the Borough as compared with the whole country. The number of deaths of children under 1 year in the Borough was 20 and the number of births was 409.

Two years ago there was an epidemic of measles, and this was again repeated in 1947 when 196 cases were notified as against only 13 cases in 1946. There were no deaths from this disease. So far as other infectious diseases are concerned, there were increases over 1946 in the notifications of Poliomyelitis and Scarlet Fever, and a reduction in cases of Diphtheria and Whooping Cough; there was only one case of Diphtheria notified during the year, as against 10 in 1946.

Regarding the seven cases of Poliomyelitis, three were adults and four were children. Extensive enquiries were carried out in connection with the poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis survey. The cases notified in the district apparently had no connection with each other.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances the general health of the population is good.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 15,302 acres, which includes 1,572 acres of mudland. The area is very largely agricultural in character, and has three main shopping and residential districts, namely Lymington Town on the Eastern end of the district, New Milton on the West, and Milford-on-Sea on the South. In addition to these there are two other districts, namely Hordle which is North of Milford-on-Sea, and Pennington, which adjoins Lymington Town. These are less populated than the three mentioned previously, but progressive development of these parts is anticipated when building difficulties are less acute.

The Borough is ideally situated, having the New Forest on its Northern border, the sea on the South, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth and Southampton within easy reach.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

			1947	1946
Area (in acres)	...	...	13,730	13,730
Population	...	...	21,490	20,930
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	8,100	7,842
Rateable Value	...	...	£178,964	£173,096
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£686	£670

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	19.03
Legitimate	381	191	190				
Illegitimate	28	11	17				

Still Births

Legitimate	9	5	4	Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	21.53
Illegitimate	—	—	—				

Deaths	326	153	173	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.17
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The death rate of England and Wales is ... 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Deaths

Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	48.90
(England and Wales, 41)				

Legitimate infants for 1,000 legitimate live births ... 49.86

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 35.71

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 51

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 3

The chief causes of death were:—

Nephritis	...	5	Tuberculosis	...	6
Malignant Disease	...	51	Intra Cranial		
Heart Disease	...	95	Vascular Lesions		55
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	24	Congenital Debility & Premature Births		11

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(I) Public Health Officers:—

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part time—temporary):
E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

(b) Senior Sanitary Inspector:
N. Raw, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspector:
T. Stafford, M.S.I.A.

(2) General Health Services:—

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examinations made at the Hampshire County Laboratories, and Public Health Laboratory.
- (b) **Ambulance facilities.**—By arrangement with Southampton Corporation infectious cases are removed by their ambulance, and non-infectious cases are removed by the St. John Ambulance Association. There is one ambulance serving the Lymington Area and another the New Milton district. This ambulance service is efficient and adequate.
- (c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—
 Ante-Natal Clinic: Parish Hall, Lymington.
 Child Welfare Centres:
 Parish Hall, Lymington.
 Women's Institute Hall, Hordle.
 Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea.
 Church Hall, New Milton.
 Women's Institute Hut, Pennington.
- (d) **Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.**—A Clinic is held at the Town Hall every Tuesday for the immunising of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years. This service is administered by the Health Department of the Lymington Borough Council under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply:—

Lymington Town is supplied from the Corporation owned works at Ampress, assisted by a supply from the West Hampshire Water Company. The other parts of the Borough are supplied from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Co., except in some outlying districts, where well water is the source of supply.

The supply from the mains in the district has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.

Regarding the supply from the Ampress Water Works, this is from one borehole and during the year a total of 68,034,000 gallons was raised. This supply was augmented by 22,614,000 gallons from the West Hampshire Water Company's mains. Following the reorganisation of pumping hours, and the checking and the prevention of waste during night hours, it has been found possible to discontinue the use of the supplementary supply as and from November 1947. During September there was some trouble with the Bore, due to a blocked straining screen on the ejector at the bottom of the bore; the screen was cleared and since then the bore has given clear water for all pumping periods.

Extensions to the mains of 100 yards of 3-inch pipe have been carried out during the year in Lymington, and various defective services have been renewed.

The supply to Lymington Town was sampled on eight occasions and the Analysts' reports were satisfactory. The eight samples taken were 6 for bacteriological examination and 2 for chemical analysis.

The West Hampshire Water Company continue to supply the Health Department with copies of the Analyst's reports on the water supplied by them, and these were all satisfactory. One sample was taken by the Health Department from this supply and the report on the bacteriological examination was good.

Extensions to the water mains carried out by the West Hampshire Water Company were:—

3" mains—650 yards. 1½"/1¼" mains—516 yards.

During the year a total of 167 tappings to the main were made.

Regarding well water supplies, there are still some few cottages supplied from wells although the mains are available and steps are being taken to check up as to the wholesomeness of this water. One sample has been taken from a well and the report showed there was pollution. The owner of the cottage concerned has been instructed to provide main water, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining the required pipes the work has not been done.

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Progress is being maintained in the connection of properties to the main sewers, but there are still many houses not yet provided with main drainage facilities. This is particularly so in the middle area where the main sewer was completed in 1942 and efforts will be made during 1948 to improve the position in this respect. There is some rather natural hesitation on the part of owners to connect their properties to the main sewer owing to the present high cost of this work.

If there is any advantage in reiteration, I wish to again mention the unsatisfactory drainage position at Pennington, particularly in Lodge Road, Westway and Greenlands Estate. I understand preliminary steps have already been taken by the Sewerage Committee to provide main drainage facilities in these particular roads.

ANALYSIS OF SEWER CONNECTIONS

District	Connections to Sewer					
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	Totals
New Milton	1	2	12	43	32	90
Milford-on-Sea	10	10	2	8	11	41
Everton and Hordle	10	7	12	24	17	70
Pennington	12	7	9	15	21	64
Lymington	2	3	3	5	5	18
Total Connections	35	29	38	95	86	283

The above figures do not include connections made in respect of Council Houses erected during the year and of these a further 131 new houses were connected to the sewer.

Public Cleansing:—

The collection and disposal of refuse is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer and so far as the Health Department is concerned we have not been troubled except for periodical visits which were required to be made under the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act.

The refuse is disposed of at one central site by controlled tipping. Collection is once weekly in the built up parts of the district and once fortnightly in the less congested parts.

The question of where householders should place their bins ready for collection and if bins should be collected from the back of the houses has been discussed frequently. Generally speaking I think it is reasonable for householders to place their dustbins conveniently accessible and within a reasonable distance from the highway, provided, of course, that special arrangements are made for those householders who through infirmity or other reasons are unable to do so. In this district the Borough Engineer has made special arrangements for these particular cases. In my view before any alterations are made to the existing mode of collection consideration should be given to a weekly collection of refuse from all parts of the Borough.

Twelve visits were made regarding the provision of proper sanitary dustbins and including those outstanding from the 1946 report, proper bins were provided.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1947:—

			Inspections	Action required	Remedied
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	190	45	40
Milk Samples	...	...	13	2	2
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	...	...	9	2	2
Inspection of Food	...	...	135	—	—
Inspection of Shops	...	...	22	6	4
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	...	...	18	3	3
Factories (inc. Bakehouses)	...	...	47	10	7
Infestations (House Pests)	...	...	39	9	9
Drainage	...	...	252	53	44
Housing and House Repairs	...	...	308	82	71
Essential Works	...	...	437	425	425
Enquiries—Applications for Council houses	...	...	695	—	—
Dustbins	...	...	12	2	2
Complaints and Nuisances	...	...	64	22	22
Camping	...	...	157	5	5
Water Samples	...	...	10	2	1
Water Supplies	...	...	21		
Rats and Mice	...	...	2322	390	390x
Infectious Diseases	...	...	46	—	—
Disinfections	...	...	25	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation	...	...	51	—	—
Schools	...	...	47	4	2
Refuse Sites	...	...	9	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	21	—	—
Sea Water Baths, Visits and Samples	...	...	5	1	1
River Samples	...	...	23	1	—
Unclassified	...	...	23	—	—
TOTALS			5006	1064	1030

x Indicates that treatment was given.

No Statutory Notices were served during the year, matters requiring action being dealt with by personal contact or by informal action.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

There are 149 registered factories and workshops in the district and 47 visits were made during the year to these premises. Details of inspections are indicated below:—

Premises		No. on Inspec-		Defects	
		Register	tions	Found	Remedied
Power Factories	...	68	30	6	4
Non-Power Factories	...	81	17	4	3
		—	—	—	—
Totals	...	149	47	10	7
		—	—	—	—

Analysis of Defects

Particulars				Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	...	...		2	2
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	...	...		3	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...		3	2
Other offences	...	...	...	2	1
				—	—
			Totals .	10	7
				—	—

Owing to pressure of other work, sufficient inspections of these premises have not been carried out.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

64 visits were made in investigating complaints and nuisances. 31 complaints were received during the year and on investigation action was found to be required in 22 cases, the remaining complaints not relating to matters remediable by a local sanitary authority. In the 22 cases mentioned all the defects found were remedied during the year. The matters dealt with were:—

Drain Defects	...	12	Insanitary accumulations	...	6
House Defects	...	1	Defective Sanitary Convenience		1
Not Classified	...	2			

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 85 registered premises in the district and a total of 190 inspections have been made during the year.

No big improvements have been carried out during the year but

the general standard of the dairies in the district is good, although there are some few instances where improvements would be of advantage. The chief defects found were lack of limewashing and other unclean conditions, but a reminder to the dairyman is quite effective in most cases. Details of defects found were:—

Limewashing required	...	...	36	Remedied	33
Unclean milk equipment	...	...	2	„	2
Other unclean conditions	...	...	3	„	3
Drainage defects	...	..	1	„	—
Defects of structure		...	1	„	—
Defects of cooling apparatus		...	1	„	1
Tainted milk	...	...	1	„	1

On analysis carried out by another authority it was found that a supply of milk from the Borough contained B.Coli, and quite properly the authority concerned notified us so that investigations could be made. Samples were taken from the source of supply, but the reports were quite satisfactory. Further investigations were carried out at our request at the depot where the milk was received, and it appeared evident that the cause of the trouble arose from the lack of proper cleansing of the milk churns at this depot.

A complaint was also received from an adjoining Authority regarding the keeping quality of milk from one of the farms in the Borough, and this, on investigation, was found to be due to defective cooling equipment at the dairy in question. This fault was immediately rectified.

18 milk samples were taken for bacteriological examination and in 4 cases the reports were unsatisfactory. These 4 samples were in respect of milk from two farms, and following investigations further samples proved satisfactory.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations have been issued by the County Council as follows:—

Accredited Milk	...	25	(Increase of 2 over 1946)
T.T. Milk	...	10	(No change)

Under the same Regulations the Council has issued 6 Bottling Licences (5 for T.T. milk and 1 for Accredited milk), 4 Dealers' Licences and 1 supplementary Licence for the sale of T.T. milk.

The County Council is responsible for the examination of milk for fat content, etc., and complaints received by the Health Department on this aspect are passed on to the County Food Inspector. I am glad to say that the County Inspector's Department is most helpful and there is a close and satisfactory co-operation between us.

TENTS, VANS, AND SHEDS

The question of camping within the Borough has been the cause of much discussion and concern from both Public Health and Town Planning points of view. There appears little doubt that the present difficulties are partly due to the lack of sufficient permanent housing accommodation, and until this shortage is overcome a certain amount of relaxation of what may be considered desirable is inevitable. I cannot imagine that the majority of the people living in caravans as their permanent home, both winter and summer, do so from choice. So far as this district is concerned there has been a measure of control in the issue of licences, and there has been very close co-operation between the respective departments dealing with the Public Health and Town Planning aspects.

During the year 12 licences have been granted in respect of camping sites and 22 in respect of individual caravans. Three applications for licences were refused under the Public Health Act, 1936, two were in respect of proposed camping sites and one in respect of a shed which was in use as a dwelling. No appeals against the refusals were made. I have made no comment about the refusal to licence the caravan site at Parkland, New Milton, as this was under the Town Planning Acts, and a matter outside my jurisdiction.

The licensed sites, taken as a whole, were not fully occupied at the height of the season, and therefore it seems reasonable to suppose that for the present, sufficient sites are now available for those liking this kind of holiday near the sea. The sites are mainly situated close to the sea front, and I personally think that suitable camping sites near or on the northern boundary of the district and one in the vicinity of Lymington would be advantageous. I might mention here that in one licensed camping site, the caravanners have the use of the site for the summer period only and all caravans, etc., are cleared by the beginning of October. This, I think, is the proper intention of the Act and this system is to be commended.

In five instances action had to be taken in respect of unsatisfactory conditions arising in camping sites, but no difficulty was experienced in having the matters remedied.

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, ETC.

There are four licensed slaughterhouses and two licensed knacker's yards in the district. Meat sold in the Borough is still distributed from the Bournemouth area, home killed meat being from animals slaughtered in the Government slaughterhouses in that area.

A good deal of time is spent in the examination of foodstuffs in the Borough due to the variety of different foods examined and partly to the shopkeepers' need to recover the points value of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption. 135 visits were made during the year to examine food, and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Beef	...	...	Bone Taint, Bruizing, etc.	2,769lbs.
Bacon	.	...	Rancidity, etc.	89½lbs.
Sausages	...	...	Putrefaction	81½lbs.
Fish (various)	...	...	Decomposition, etc.	2,213lbs.
Wood Pigeons	...	...	Putrefaction	50
Butter	...	...	Rancidity	13lbs.
Flour	...	...	Out of condition	14lbs.
Prunes	...	...	Out of condition	305lbs.
Barley	...	...	Out of condition	1½lbs.
Chocolate	...	...	Out of condition	6lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	Out of condition	24lbs.
Tins of Meat	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	211
Tins of Peas/Beans	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	269
Tins of Fish	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	478
Tins of Milk	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	390
Tins of Soups	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	77
Tins of Vegetables	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	152
Tins of Fruit	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	52
Tins of Jams	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	30
Tins of Puddings	...	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	2

All fats and meat were returned to the wholesalers as required by the Ministry of Food and dealt with by them for manufacturing purposes. Where possible other condemned food was used for animal feeding.

Regarding inspection of food premises, defects found and remedied during the year were:

Unclean condition of shops	...	2
Defective sanitary facilities	...	2
Other defects	...	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—ICE CREAM

During the summer months a series of ice cream samples were taken at the three premises where this food is manufactured. A total of 11 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. These tests carried out at the laboratories have no legal standing and are purely a tentative method of grading ice cream, but the test, according to expert opinion, does serve as a simple and practicable method for grading ice cream according to its degree of bacterial cleanliness.

So far as our samples were concerned the reports were not entirely satisfactory, there being 5 samples in Grade 4 out of the 11 samples taken. The ice cream from the premises concerned was, however, eventually brought up to a satisfactory standard.

The results of the analysis were:—

		Gde. 4	Gde. 3	Gde. 2	Gde. 1
Manufacturer No. 1	...	3	1	0	1
Manufacturer No. 2	...	1	1	2	0
Manufacturer No. 3	...	1	0	0	1

Four other samples were taken of ice cream ingredients in order to ascertain if these were the cause of the low grading. These were, however, found to be satisfactory and one could only be of opinion that there was some fault in the method of manufacture.

HOUSING

During 1947 there was some reduction of the work entailed in the inspection of housing accommodation relating to applications for Council houses. The total visits made were 695, and 291 individual reports were prepared. These inspections revealed 89 cases of overcrowding, chiefly due to members of the family getting married and continuing to live with parents. Including the cases of overcrowding mentioned in the 1946 report the total number comes to 303 and out of these 213 have been allocated Council houses. The overcrowding is not based on the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, but on the deficiency of accommodation, taking into consideration the number of persons and sex of those living in the house, and the bedrooms and living rooms required in order to provide reasonable accommodation for the applicant's family.

An analysis of the present applications (May 1948) reveals the following facts:—

No. of applications (excludes applications from old people)	...	...	...	483
No. with deficiency of 1 room	...	...	...	152
No. with deficiency of 2 rooms	...	...	...	36
No. with deficiency of 3 rooms	...	...	...	2

Of the remaining 293 applications, undoubtedly a number of these are sharing homes but evidently their own accommodation is adequate for their requirements. Of the 152 with a deficiency of one room, 64 are married couples without children.

I have a great deal of sympathy for those who through force of circumstances are obliged to share houses and obviously every separate family should have a home of their own. Nevertheless, purely from a health point of view, the above analysis shows that there is a total of 126 applications where the conditions may be considered as really urgent from a health point of view.

Taking into consideration all the difficulties, the Council and responsible officials are to be congratulated on the excellent progress made in the erection of Council houses. During the last two years the Council has provided 250 additional homes as follows:—

	1947	1946	
Prefabricated houses ...	50	50	— 100
Permanent houses ...	81	69	— 150
			<hr/> 250 <hr/>

A further 320 inspections were made respecting house repairs and works of repairs and/or improvements were found to be required in 82 cases; defects in 71 of these were remedied during the year. The defects remedied included the following items:—

Defective roofs ...	24	Defective sanitary facilities	18
Defective drains ...	15	Defective windows ...	18
Defective floorings ...	12	Damp and defective walls .	13
Defective ceilings ...	6	Defective fireplaces ...	11
Dirty houses ...	7	Defective water services ...	3

As shown in the summary of inspections visits had to be made regarding the issue of priority certificates to obtain materials for essential works of repair or replacements. A total of 474 Certificates of Essentiality were issued for 705 classes of materials or components.

The Ministry's scheme has now been modified and the position has eased considerably in so far as the necessity for the issue of certificates is concerned.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT

This important branch of the Health Department's work has been carried on actively through the Rodent Officer/Operator. Altogether 2,322 visits were made during the year and 390 premises were found to be infested with rats. I am glad to say that there were only two instances of major infestation, both at Milford, all the others being minor in character. Of the 390 cases of infestation 344 were in private houses, the remainder being at business premises. A total of 1,596 rat points were baited and the results of the treatments have been generally satisfactory. There have been a few cases of reinfestation soon after treatment, but the percentage of these is small in comparison with the number of premises treated.

The sewers at Pennington, Everton, Hordle, Milford and Keyhaven have all been test baited and the results were negative. These tests are carried out under the supervision of a Ministry of Food official attached to the department dealing with the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act.

The Rodent Officer has also dealt with 9 wasps' nests and 1 hornets' nest during the year.

RIVER POLLUTION

A series of samples were taken from the Lymington river and one sample from Keyhaven river. The sample taken at Keyhaven was satisfactory, but the reports of the analyst on the samples taken from the Lymington river indicated there was a degree of pollution which required investigation. Samples have been taken at different points in the river and at different tides with the expectation that this might indicate the source of pollution. Certain evidence has been obtained in this way as a result of which the Committee concerned has been informed of the position and steps are being taken to deal with the cause of at least part of the pollution. This matter has its difficulties as there are so many possible sources of the trouble, including the river traffic, which, during the summer in particular, is heavy, and the possibility of domestic drainage entering the river from houses situate outside the Borough boundaries.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

In view of the cases of infantile paralysis throughout the country in the summer of 1947, it was decided to close these baths for a period as a precautionary measure, and samples of the bath water were taken. As a result of this sampling it was not found necessary to keep the baths closed and they were only out of use for a short period.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

The shipping entering the port is chiefly confined to coastwise vessels, the cargoes being mainly timber, coal and oil. There is no passenger traffic entering the port.

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering port ...	128	—
Foreign vessels entering port ...	—	—

A position between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy is the mooring station for suspected and infected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Typhus. The following diseases are regarded as exempt from detention at the mooring station: Measles, Diphtheria, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, Mumps, Enteric Fever, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Cerebral Spinal Fever, Erysipelas, Malaria, and Dysentery.

No cases of infectious diseases were reported during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases notified were:—

Measles	...	...	196	Notified	1946	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	...	...	34	„	„	...	...	76
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	„	„	...	...	2
Acute Anterior								
Poliomyelitis	...	...	7	„	„	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	„	„	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7	„	„	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	1	„	„	...	...	10
Acute Influenzal								
Pneumonia	...	...	5	„	„	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	1	„	„	...	...	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

This work continued during the year and 205 children under 5 years and 54 children between 5 and 15 years received the completed treatment during the year. In addition to these, 50 children received reinforcing injections. The statistics indicate that the percentage of immunisation in the Borough of children between 1 year and 15 years is 79.6.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-seven cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, an increase of 1 over 1946. Twenty-one were pulmonary cases and six non-pulmonary. Eight of the cases notified were transfers from other districts.

CONCLUSION

The year 1947 has seen some progress in housing conditions in the Borough, and very many unsatisfactory home conditions have been remedied by the re-housing of families. There are, of course, numerous cases where other accommodation is still required, but I feel sure that by the end of 1948 the more necessitous cases will have been satisfactorily dealt with. Still a good deal remains to be done in the repair and improvement to existing properties, but efforts will be made during 1948 to deal with these houses. Of course, first priority must be given to the erection of new houses and the question of materials available does limit what can be done in the way of repairs and improvements.

In closing this report I must thank most sincerely the Senior Sanitary Inspector and other members of the staff for the assistance they have given me and express my appreciation of the support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

E. CROFT WATTS,

Medical Officer of Health.